

## K-State to wave farewell, honor four senior players for senior day Saturday

By JOHN ZETMEIR  
THE COLLEGIAN

On Saturday, four K-State men's basketball teammates will run through Bramlage Coliseum's tunnel for the final time. While they may have come to K-State by different paths, there is no denying that they've each had their own positive effect on the program as a whole.

"It's a group where you have some good quality people, I think that's the first thing that you talk about," head coach Bruce Weber said.

The most noticeable member of the senior class is senior guard Will Spradling. Hailing from Overland Park, Kan., Spradling will go down in K-State history for the things that he's done on the court, like becoming the 25th player in K-State history to score 1,000 points. He is also one of just four players in school history to have over 300 assists, 300 rebounds and 100 steals to go along with the four-digit point total. Spradling will graduate with a degree in business administration.

"I don't even remember what type of expectations I had," Spradling said. "I was just excited to get to K-State and knowing how well they've done the year before, hopefully carry that on."

The only other player who came in with the 2010 class that will be celebrating senior night on Saturday is forward Shane South-

well. The senior from Harlem, N.Y., has showed growth in every season as a Wildcat. Last season, Southwell took his biggest leap, becoming a lethal shooter from long-range for the Wildcats during their Big 12 championship run. Southwell went from shooting 24 percent from outside as a sophomore to nearly 44 percent during his junior season. The senior said that you won't see him have a big emotional moment, but understands the importance of getting the job done on Saturday. Southwell will graduate with a degree in social science with an emphasis in communications.

"Bittersweet, but just got to go out there and get a win," Southwell said. "It would be very disappointing feeling to lose your last game."

Omari Lawrence has never started a game for the K-State Wildcats, but when his number was called, the senior from the Bronx, N.Y., answered the call. Out of high school, Lawrence inked to play his college basketball at St. John's. After a year, Lawrence said he decided to transfer to K-State, but was forced to attend Cloud County Community College in Junction City first because the Wildcats did not have any open scholarships. Lawrence's biggest impact of the season came at home against the Kansas Jayhawks on Feb. 10. At that time, Lawrence played a career-high 22 minutes in a Big 12 game, finishing with nine points, two steals and an assist. In the following game, Lawrence played a career-high 30 minutes

against Baylor. Though the senior graduated last spring, he has been working on his master's in family studies.

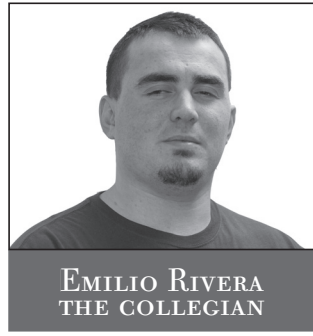
"I can say all around (against Kansas) was probably my best game here at Kansas State," Lawrence said. "I enjoyed it personally. The crowd, good energy, it was a good time."

Last but certainly not least is senior forward Ryan Schultz. After two years at Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson, Kan., Schultz decided to walk-on to Weber's squad. Schultz has only played 61 minutes in a Wildcat uniform, but you won't find any-one around that program who has a negative word to throw in the direction of the senior from Wichita, Kan. Spradling said Schultz is one of the hardest working players he's ever seen in practice. Southwell compared him to Tom Cruise. But Weber's compliment may go the furthest when talking about Schultz.

"I have daughters," Weber said. "I'd love him to date one of my daughters."

Schultz will graduate from K-State with a degree in nutrition and kinesiology and will likely attend medical school after his time in Manhattan is over.

## Wildcats' Big 12 homestand winning streak could have historic implications



EMILIO RIVERA  
THE COLLEGIAN

Head coach Bruce Weber and his team have been on a roll at home this season, winning the last 15 games in Bramlage Coliseum. Dating back to last season, the Wildcats have a 14-conference games winning streak against the Big 12 at home. This success for the Wildcats is important not only for the team, but the program itself.

The history of the Wildcats at home is one of dominance, with the Wildcats holding a .737 winning percentage in Manhattan. Not only are the Wildcats known for winning at home, they were known for winning at home during conference play.

Before the formation of the Big 12 conference, the Wildcats were able to amass 10-seasons with a perfect home-record in conference play, the last dating back to the 1972-73 season when they were a part of the Big 8 conference.

"It's something that's never happened in Bramlage, so that's a huge accomplishment," senior guard Will Spradling said. "Just to keep the streak alive and let the younger guys hopefully

carry that on into next year would be huge and fun to watch next year."

When the Big 12 formed in 1996, the former Big 8 schools saw four-very talented teams from Texas join the conference, something that shifted the power in the conference. In the 17-seasons since the formation of the Big 12, the Wildcats have not been able to make it through the brutal conference play without suffering a loss at home.

On Saturday night in Bramlage, this could change as Wildcats go for a feat that they haven't accomplished in 41 seasons, going perfect at home throughout the brutal conference schedule.

In the two seasons that Weber has been the coach of the Wildcats, his team has only lost two games at home, going a total of 30-2 in Bramlage. The fact is, going 16-1 to this point in conference play in the last two seasons is something for the Wildcats to be proud of. It means that while things might be tough on the road for the Wildcats, Bramlage still remains a safe haven for the team.

Weber and his team have made Bramlage into one of the hardest places in the Big 12 for teams to steal a win in. To put a perspective on what the team has accomplished in Weber's tenure, only the Jayhawks have more home wins in conference play in the last two-seasons than Weber's team, a mark that could be matched if the Wildcats beat Baylor.



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## TIPOFF

Bramlage Coliseum 12:30 p.m. Saturday



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Freshman guard **Marcus Foster** nails a 3-pointer in the first half of K-State's 65-53 victory over the Horned Frogs on Feb. 19 in Bramlage Coliseum.

By JOHN ZETMEIR  
THE COLLEGIAN

The K-State Wildcats played some of their best road basketball of the season against Baylor when the Wildcats traveled to Waco, Texas. However, there is a strong emphasis on the word "some." It took the Bears hitting a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to push the game into overtime before they eventually grabbed the win. Now, the Wildcats (20-10, 10-7 Big 12) will get a chance at revenge as the Bears come to town for the final game in Bramlage Coliseum this season.

"Anytime you lose to a team, you want to get back and get revenge on them," senior forward Shane Southwell said.

Southwell was forced to sit out against Baylor in the first go around on Feb. 15, after suffering an injury against Kansas on Feb. 10. Junior forward Nino Williams entered the starting lineup in Southwell's stead and made the most of his opportunity. Williams finished with a career-high 20 points and has started the last six games.

"Every time I watch it, it just rubs me the wrong way," head coach Bruce Weber said. "I don't think we played perfect by any means but we sure played good enough to win."

The Bears (20-10, 8-9 Big 12) have been one of the hottest teams in the Big 12 since the midway point of the month of

February. After starting their Big 12 season as the losers of six of their first eight games, the Bears have won six of their last seven games. A big reason for that has been the resurgence of junior guard Kenny Chery. After being hobbled up in the first part of Big 12 play, Chery's triple-double against K-State has helped jump start both him and his team. The junior is averaging 15.8 points

into the conference tournament is not being swept," Spradling said. "That lets us win the tiebreaker for every team we may tie with."

The Wildcats may need freshman guard Marcus Foster to shake his scoring slump if they hope to finish out their regular season with a win. After a strong month of play in February, where the talented freshman averaged nearly 21 points per game, Fos-

**"Anytime you lose to a team, you want to get back and get revenge on them."**

SHANE SOUTHWELL  
K-STATE SENIOR FORWARD

per game over his last six games.

"Obviously we got them right when they started that stretch of winning games and we had a chance to win the game and we let it slip away," senior guard Will Spradling said. "We've been playing better in Bramlage than on the road, we'll be ready to go."

If the Wildcats defeat the Bears on Saturday, they will finish the season without getting swept by anyone in Big 12 play. With the Big 12 tournament going on next week, not allowing Baylor to sweep K-State could play a huge factor in seeding.

"That's a big thing going

ter has only score 20 total points since the start of March. Foster is six for his last 22 from the field.

After their loss Monday, the Wildcats dropped to a tie for third place in the Big 12 with Iowa State. Right now, the Wildcats are looking at the No. 4 seed in the Big 12 tournament. If the Wildcats lose Saturday, they could fall to the No. 5 seed. However, a win could allow the Wildcats to jump to the No. 3 seed.

Tipoff is set for 12:30 p.m. Saturday in Bramlage Coliseum. The game will act as senior night for the Wildcats, where four K-State players will be honored.

## By The Numbers

By SPENCER LOW  
THE COLLEGIAN

# 1

Seconds left in the game last time the teams met when Baylor senior guard Brady Heslip sunk a 3-pointer to tie the game and send it to overtime. K-State had not trailed the Bears since the 15-minute mark of the first half, and held a 10 point lead with less than nine minutes remaining in the game. But Baylor came back in the final seconds and ended up winning in the second overtime.

# 46.8

Heslip's 3-point shooting percentage for this season, which is tops in the Big 12. The senior is often streaky, hitting just one of eight against the Wildcats in the last game between the two teams. However, he was 5 for 8 on Tuesday against Iowa State, so he is coming off a big game.

# 64.5

Points per game allowed by K-State's defense this season. In an incredibly competitive Big 12 Conference this year, the Wildcat defense has remained stout in keeping most games to a relatively low score, which helps because their offense is better than only TCU's this season with 69.1 points per game. However, Baylor's defense is right behind K-State's, allowing 67.8 points per game. Do not be surprised if Saturday's game is a low-scoring affair.



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN  
Senior guard **Will Spradling** prevents TCU freshman guard **Michael Williams** from getting to the basket in the first half of K-State's 65-53 victory over the Horned Frogs on Feb. 19 in Bramlage Coliseum.

# 94

Blocks by Bears center Isaiah Austin this season, which leads the Big 12. He blocked nine shots last time he faced K-State, and has the ability to change games on both sides of the floor, averaging 10.7 points per game. The 7-1, 225 pound sophomore has amazing talent but struggles with inconsistency, so the Wildcats may see a dominating post player or he may just blend in to the background and fail to have a big impact. K-State is surely hoping for the latter.

# 12,100

Average attendance for home games for K-State this season. Head coach Bruce Weber's team is 15-1 at home this year and hasn't lost a Big 12 game in Bramlage, thanks in large part to the atmosphere in the Octagon of Doom. Only two other teams draw more fans per game in the Big 12. Although Aggieville may be the mecca for Fake Patty's Day Saturday, make sure to take a time out from the festivities and go to the game. Don't forget to trade out your green for purple garb before heading in.

## Matching up: Baylor Bears versus K-State Wildcats

By AUSTIN EARL  
THE COLLEGIAN

### Frontcourt

The Baylor frontcourt is highlighted by senior forward Cory Jefferson and sophomore center Isaiah Austin.

Jefferson leads his team in scoring with 13.3 points per game, as well as rebounding with 8.3 boards per game. He's an efficient shooter, converting on 50.7 percent of his field goal attempts. While Jefferson stands at 6 feet 9 inches, he can still step back and hit a 3-pointer. He does not shoot from long range very often — 27 times this season — but when he does, he knocks it down 40.7 percent of the time.

Austin is a former five-star recruit who was ranked the No. 4 prospect in the country when he came out of high school. The 7-foot-1-inch center uses his freakish height and wingspan to block 3.1 shots per game — 11th most in the nation. His physical attributes also allow him to grab 5.6 rebounds per game. Austin's offense lags behind his defense; he averages 10.7 points and 2.1 turnovers per game.

Jefferson and Austin had no trouble in their first outing against K-State, combining for 39 points and 18 rebounds. Austin was able to excel because of K-State's lack of height, which remains a big concern for the Wildcats as they move into their second contest against the Bears.

K-State saw what the talented Baylor frontcourt could do when they played in Waco. The Wildcats will have to contain Jefferson and Austin much better if they plan on getting a victory in Bramlage Coliseum.

### Backcourt

The Wildcats were able to contain Baylor senior guard Brady Heslip for the first 39 minutes of the teams' first matchup on Feb. 15. But as time expired, the sharpshoot-

er connected on his first 3-pointer of the night, and it was the one that counted. It tied the game and K-State fell in double overtime 87-73.

What gets lost in Heslip's big shot is that he was just 1/8 from 3-point range that evening, and only had seven points. That total was below his season average of 11.4 points per game. The Wildcats defended him well for almost the entire game.

K-State struggled with Baylor point guard Kenny Chery. Chery posted a triple-double against the Wildcats in what was easily his best game of the season. Since his massive game against K-State, he has turned it on. He is averaging 15.8 points in his past six games.

On the offensive end, K-State had a lot of points scored by their backcourt, but they weren't scored very efficiently. Their biggest problem was 3-point shooting, where they shot just 22.2 percent against Baylor in February. Senior guard Will Spradling went 1 for 7 from beyond the arc in Waco, Texas.

Freshman guard Marcus Foster had 18 points for K-State in their first meeting with Baylor, but it took him 18 shots to get there. He needs to be more efficient for his team. If guarded by Heslip, Foster should have the ability to put up a lot of points on Saturday.

### X-factor

Junior forward Nino Williams had a fantastic game in Waco, scoring 20 points with eight rebounds. Williams was filling in for the injured senior Shane Southwell during that game.

If Williams has that sort of game again against Baylor, the Wildcats' chance of victory skyrockets. It doesn't have to be Williams that has a big game for his team, though; it can be any K-State player.

When Foster has an average game, the Wildcats need one more player to break out and play well. When K-State has multiple offensive weapons, they are a tough team to beat.



EMILY DeSHAHER | THE COLLEGIAN

Junior forward **Nino Williams** shoots a basket over Kansas sophomore forward Perry Ellis on Feb. 10 at Bramlage Coliseum. Williams scored 20 points and grabbed eight rebounds in the game at Baylor earlier this season.

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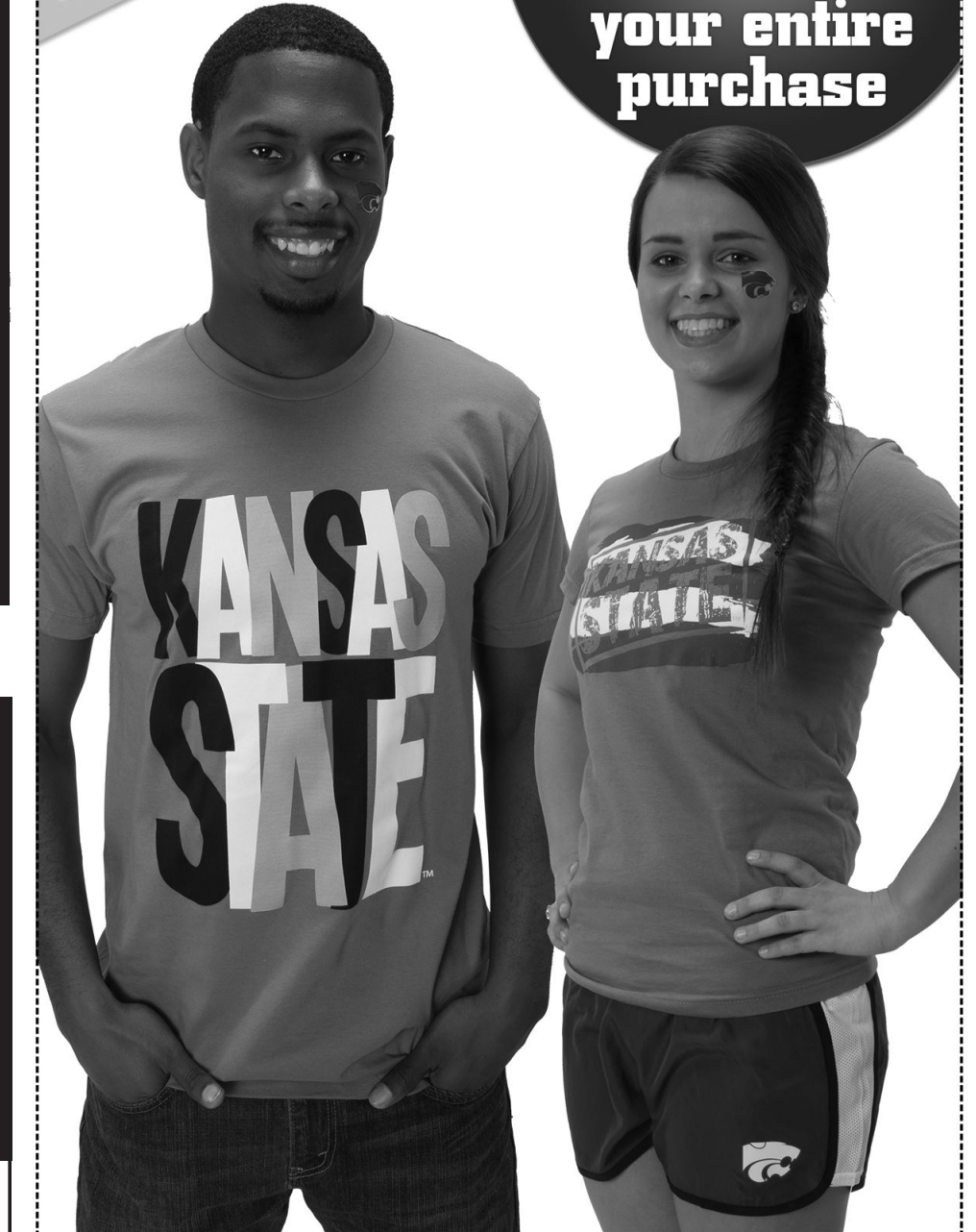
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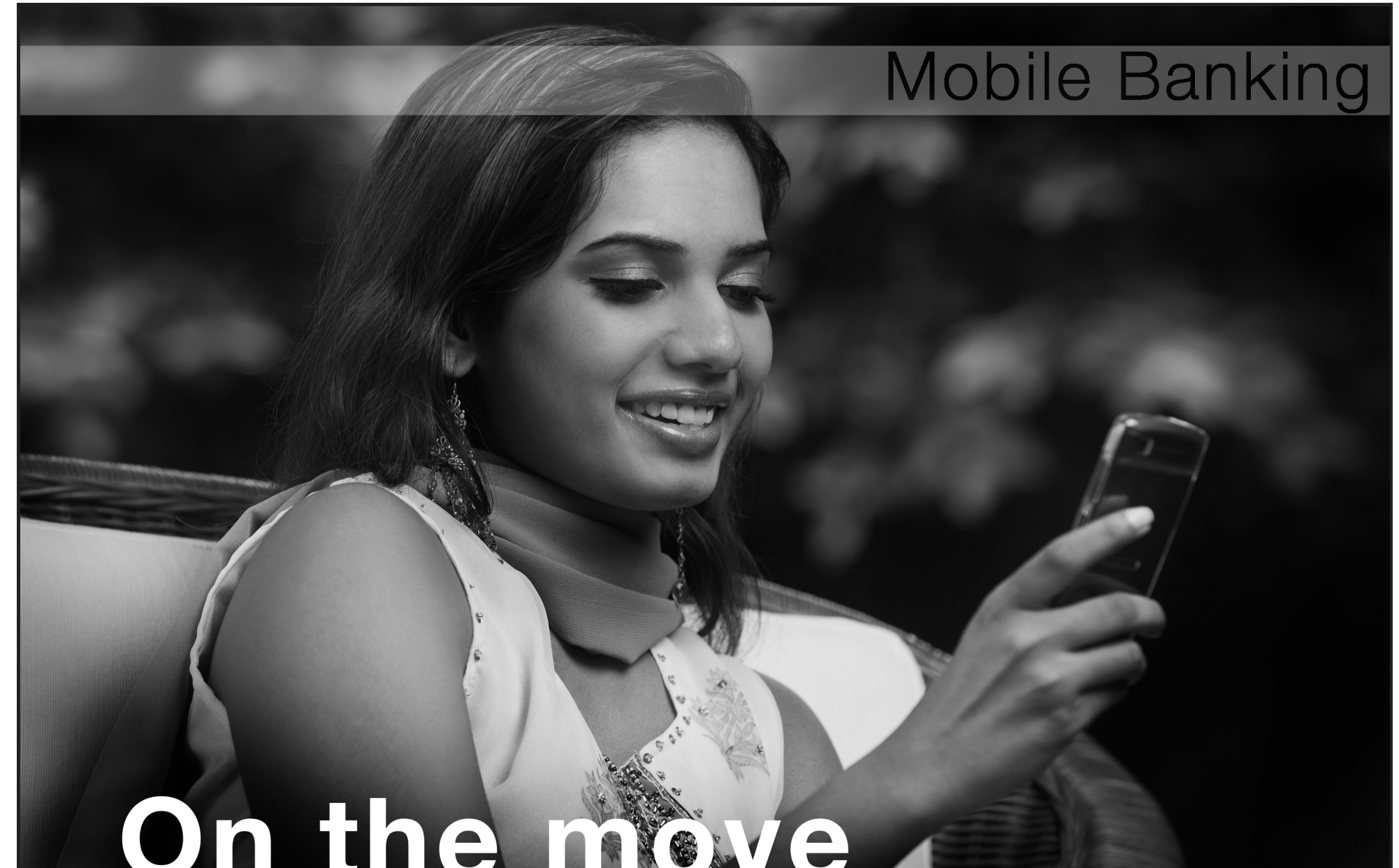
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